



Testimony

Submitted By:

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Middlesex Health

Public Health Committee Public Hearing

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SUPPORT: SB 1070 An Act Allowing APRNs and PAs to Issue Home Health Orders

Senator Abrams, Representative Steinberg and members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Veronica Mansfield I am an APRN currently practicing at Middlesex Health Family Medicine Residency Program. Over the past 25 years I have worked as an APRN in a variety of settings including inpatient hospital settings, school based health center, behavior health clinic and several primary care practices. Since I began practicing as an APRN the state of Connecticut has been at the forefront of expanding the scope of APRN practice.

As per the state of Connecticut per the Nurse Practice ACT APRNs are able to perform acts of diagnosis and treatment of alterations in health status. This includes tasks such as ordering tests, prescribing medications or referral to specialty care. In many practices APRNs are the primary provider for patients and have their own panel of patients.

However prior to the emergency order put in place during the pandemic APRNs were not allowed to order homecare services for patients. They would have to work with a physician colleague to order any homecare services. At times this extra step resulted in a delay of a patient receiving home health services. Which in turn may lead to unnecessary emergency department visits or hospitalizations.

In conclusion please support SB 1070 An Act Allowing APRNs and PAs to issue Home Health Orders. During the pandemic this was vital to patients requiring home health care especially when so many healthcare services were disrupted. This permanent change will decrease the chances for delays in care.